Withdrawal of reservation of Bhopal Gas victims in the Rail Coach Factory, Bhopal

*253. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI MURLI DHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in a letter dated, January 29, 1990, addressed to Convenor, Zahreeli Gas Kand Sangharsh Morcha, Bhopal, Government had informed that the concessions granted by the earlier Government to the Bhopal Gas Victims, by way of reserving 50 per cent of vacancies in the Rail Coach Factory, Bhopal, would be withdrawn from July, 1990; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the reversal of the decision taken by the earlier Government?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) Instructions relating to concessions to the Bhopal Gas Victims for recruitment in Coach Repair Workshop, Bhopal were earlier valid upto 30th June, 1990. This has since been extended upto 31st December, 1990.

(b) Does not arise, in view of reply to part (a) above.

Support price of paddy in Andhra Pradesh

*259. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers are not getting minimum support price for paddy in Krishna, Guntur and Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Food Corporation of India is rejecting the paddy which is discoloured due to rains, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are being taken for purchasing the same through F.C.I. and what is the quantity purchased by the Food Corporation of India, so far and what is the target in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) 80 paddy purchase centres, as compared to 40 purchase centres last year in these districts, have been opened by the Food Corporation of India to extend price support to farmers and to avoid distress sale. About 16,072 MTs of paddy has been procured till 14-5-1990 in these districts.

(b) Food Corporation of India is procuring paddy conforming to prescribed specifications under Government's price support scheme. The rejections limit for discoloured grains was earlier increased from 5% to 6% and has now been further increased to 15% for these districts.

(c) Relaxations in specifications of parboiled rice to be procured in Krishna and West Godavari districts upto 31-5-1990, have been allowed by the Government in order to enable the millers to purchase paddy from farmers and offer rice under levy to FCI under relaxed specifications for discoloured grains and brokens. 35,255 MTs of paddy has been procured till 14-5-1990 in Andhra Pradesh by the FCI. Further relaxations in quality specifications for procurement of paddy and rice in the four cyclone and flood affected districts have been allowed upto 15-6-1990. No, target is fixed for procurement of paddy as the paddy is procured against voluntary offers by the farmers under the price support scheme of the Government.

Scarcity of Kerosene and Sugar in Orissa

*260. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of of the scarcity of Kerosene and Sugar in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the steps taken so far to ensure the supply of these essential items to that State?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) Some reports have been received recently on shortage of kerosene and sugar in certain parts of Orissa.

(b) The State Government have been requested to take necessary corrective measures. During March and April, 1990, ad hoc allocation of kerosene to the tune of 500 tonnes and 2000 tonnes respectively was made to Orissa, in addition to the regular monthly allocation of 11,960 tonnes for the period from March to June, 1990.

Orissa is being allotted, every month, levy sugar of 12,393 tonnes for supply through Public Distribution System. In